

"This is a day that is near and dear to my heart."

- R. Michael Karr



Joe Barrentine

Richard Parks, center, along with other veterans, sings the national anthem at the beginning of Monday's Veterans Day ceremony at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent. More than 600 people turned out to honor the nation's veterans with song and prayer.

Remembering our own

*South
Sounders
attend
regional
celebrations
in honor of
our nation's
veterans*



Pfc. Matthew Anderson, Headquarters Support Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery, shares a moment with Chaplain Milton Till, Veterans of Foreign Wars state chaplain, before Monday's ceremony.

By Joe Barrentine
Northwest Guardian

The eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year was filled with prayers, parades, flowers and flags - dedicated to the men and women who have fought the nation's wars.

Fort Lewis soldiers and their families joined thousands of Puget Sound residents in honoring the country's veterans at Veterans Day events all over the region.

Chaplain (Maj.) Donald Eubank, 1st Brigade, said military veterans might be getting more respect since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 and the military actions that have followed.

"I think there's a heightened awareness because of the tensions since Sept. 11," he said, after a church service that was dedicated to veterans at Fort Lewis' Evergreen Chapel Sunday. "Our nation seems to be more grateful right now to the people who have served our country."

More than 600 people, along with members of almost every veteran's organization in the state, gathered at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent to show their respect.

Col. Gary R. Heumphreus, director of logistics for Fort Lewis, spoke about the selfless service of soldiers past and present.



Ashlynn Passig, 18 months old, plays with a small American flag at the ceremony at Tahoma National Cemetery.

Veterans
Continued from Page A1

"When your country called, you answered," he said. "When duty required you to stand the line, you did. Words can barely begin to express our thanks today to all those who have served, to those who are serving, and those who are joining the ranks of our great military.

"Whether you served in France nearly 60 years ago, in the hills of Korea or the jungles of Vietnam, in the burning sands of Iraq or the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan, you know the face of war," Heumphreus continued. "This knowledge is a special bond that allows you to look in each other's eyes and know what it is to serve."

The ceremony of the day was not lost on the many veterans in attendance.

Retired Special Forces soldier R. Michael Karr, who saw combat in the Vietnam War, said that the outpouring of affection is well deserved.

"It makes me feel good because I remember coming back home in 1969 when we still had the anti-Vietnam people out there," he said. "This is a day that is near and dear to my heart."

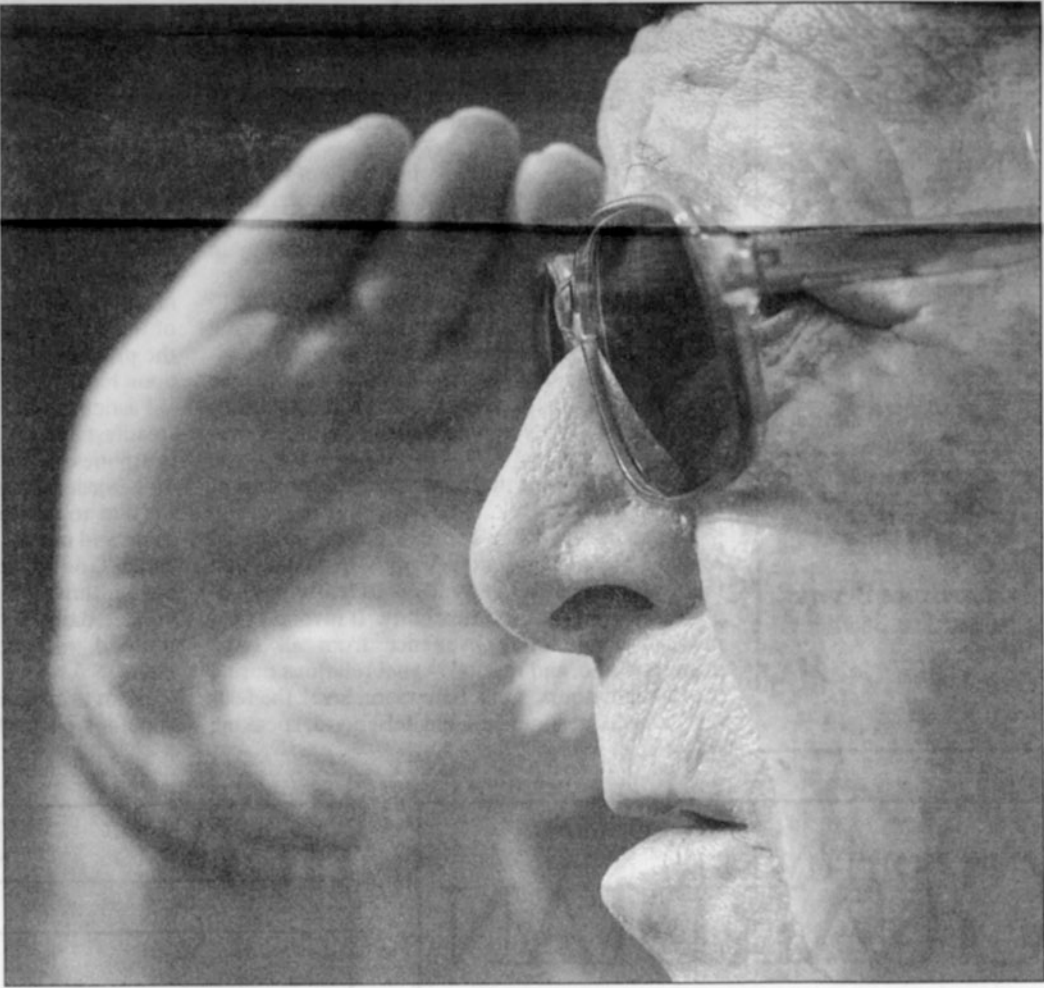
The national holiday was originally celebrated in 1921 - on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month - to memorialize the end of the hostilities of World War I. Officially named Armistice Day in 1926, the name was changed to Veterans Day by President Eisenhower in 1954 to honor veterans of World War II and the Korean War as well. Today, veterans of all the nation's wars are honored on Veterans Day.



Photos by Joe Barrentine

Patty Sharp and her daughter Morgan, 5, sit alongside the grave of Sharp's grandfather, an Army veteran, before Monday's Veterans Day ceremony at Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent. More than 600 people turned out to honor the nation's veterans.

Saluting America's heroes



Edgar W. Phillips, vice-commander of American Legion Post 160 in Seattle salutes as the American flag passes during the Veterans Day parade in Auburn Saturday.

"When your country called, you answered. When duty required you to stand the line, you did."
- Col. Gary R. Heumphreus



Above: Veterans of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines showed their patriotism at the Veterans Day parade in Auburn. The two-hour parade featured high school bands, veterans groups and military representatives.
Right: Hundreds of children showed up with their families to pay their respects to veterans past and present, in a ceremony held at Tahoma National Cemetery Monday.

